

2/4/2014 Solar Work Group Meeting Minutes

- Attendance: see attendee list
- On the Phone:
 - Bill Queen – Northwestern Michigan College
 - Tom Stanton - NRRI
 - Charles Griffin - Ecology Center
- Introductions
 - Discussion of the U-17302 directive in the Order
 - Divide into working sub-groups with intent of drafting report
 - Mid-June Staff will send report out for comments to be put into appendix of final report
 - Three areas of focus for report (sub-groups)
 - Value of solar (Julie Baldwin baldwinj2@michigan.gov – Staff lead)
 - Mike Linsea brought up risk management
 - Securing power into the future; hedging against future price volatility
 - Quantify the cost of solar and get the actual cost to rate payers
 - Solar tariff (Kevin Krause Krausek@michigan.gov – Staff lead)
 - Distribution value
 - Rate impact
 - Program caps
 - Program design (Jesse Harlow harlowj@michigan.gov – Staff lead)
 - Community solar
 - Existing programs
 - Sub-groups will be conducted through email and phone (primarily) with progress reports shared at the combined group meetings
 - Schedule
 - Combined group to meet every three weeks (10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. tentatively at the same place)
 - Feb 25
 - March 18
 - April 8
 - April 29
 - May 20
 - June 10 draft report release
 - June 28/July 1 final report release
 - Participant's goals for the workgroup
 - Jim Carter – Value of Solar – Better understanding.
 - Wayne Appleyard – More robust solar program with meaningful incentives.
 - Anne Woiwode – Expanding solar and work with a solar provider to engage members and remove barriers.

- Douglas Jester – Implement recommendations in his U-17302 and U-17301 testimony, goals pursued in the act instead of just mandate.
- Brad Klein – Develop an approach to solar programs that brings sustainable growth instead of start and stop. Move discussions of group to actions.
- Terry Meirzwa – Interest from customers in green energy. Offer an additional product that customers want.
- Lori fobes – To listen and learn about solar.
- Dave Ronk – Approach that offers low cost non-subsidized program design. Hope to hear ideas from the group.
- Michael Ross – Echo what Dave Ronk said.
- Keith Troyer – Looking for ideas on program changes or program styles.
- Kim Walton – Focus on community solar and finding ways to make existing programs fluid while remove solar barriers.
- Mark Ferda – Interest to see how his organization can help further the group's goals.
- Mike Linsea – Open ended program that moves us toward energy independence
- John Sarver – Value in community solar programs and value of solar can help to promote solar interest if done right
- Mark Rabinsky - Learn as much as they can and focus on community solar design
- Sean Reed – Understand the barriers that limit adoption of solar in Michigan and what the solutions are.
- Jenny Oorbeck – Echoes what Sean and Mark said and want to be on the final deployment team.
- Tania Howard – Looking to leverage tools and partnerships to promote community solar as a business and community development option.
- Mike Williams – Listen and learn to develop a program that is acceptable to all parties.
- Todd Lohrmann – Eager to come to a solution for customers that want more solar in a way that works for all parties.
- David Harwood - Eager to learn.
- Sarah Mullkoff – Building on a long term sustainable path.
- David Isakson – Learn how solar can impact rate design
- Julie Baldwin – Solar program that eliminates the boom and bust with predictability. Value of solar could be a better program than net metering.
- Kevin Krause – Interested in how community solar can help individuals that cannot install solar on their own homes
- Jesse Harlow – Echoed what Julie said so eloquently.
- John Kinch – Looking forward to programs that can expand solar installations in Michigan and explore community solar.
- Jim Dulzo – Support for solar is great in his area and would like to see community solar that is a model with quick paybacks.
- Ray Zoia – Can be a strong resource for the work groups.

- Regina Warner – Wants to listen and learn and add insight
 - Julie Londo – Understands what the customers need and can add input to the groups.
 - Jim Padgett – Observe and listen.
 - John Freeman – Develop a blue print to move towards smart solar initiative that creates jobs.
 - Mark Berogee – Help Michigan catch up to the rest of the country with respect to solar installations.
 - Dave Frederichs – Interested in community solar.
 - Nate Geisler – Ann Arbor’s Climate Action Plan was just released with a goal and of incorporating community solar.
 - Gary Kitts – Observe.
 - Mike O’brian – Observe.
 - Paul Proudfoot – Long term stability with an actionable goal. Community solar has a place in Michigan.
- Phone
 - Tom Stanton – Interested in providing technical support to the groups and can provide research assistance.
 - Bill Queen – Produce an actionable plan to catch up to the rest of the world with respect to solar installations.
 - Charles Griffith – Make Michigan a leader in solar energy and move beyond the experimental program design.
- How best to channel communication?
 - Google groups
 - Docket
 - Bracketed subject line on emails
 - Working sub-group reporting at each combined meeting
 - Presenter at each combined meeting
 - Check with Mary Jo Kunkle of MPSC on thoughts for communicating
- Questions
 - Can there be an upfront verbal contract with the group/Can we come to a consensus on an actual plan/goal
 - Answer – The goals discussed when going around the room seemed to align fairly well.
 - Can the value of solar tariff be fleshed out a bit as demand charges tend to eliminate the benefits of self-generation when generator size increases
 - Answer – This should be addressed in Solar Tariff sub-group
 - On-peak load considerations
 - Answer – This should be addressed in Value of Solar sub-group
- Discussion
 - Kim Walton – Value of Solar equation that you can plug in variables

- Brad Klein – Suggested reading the testimony of Karl Rabago, Minnesota value of solar tariff
 - Jesse Harlow – Suggested reading GLREA Community Solar Guidebook in addition to those mentioned by Brad.
 - Anne Woiwode – Recommended a forum for asking clarifying questions.
 - Bill Queen – Asked for attendee list, and sub-group information to be sent to people on the phone.
- Adjourn